After the snow and ice of this great geological winter had passed away, and a climate very similar to that which we now enjoy had covered the land with its present flora and fauna, we find the first clearly acceptable evidence of the presence of man. The geological records before us are brought down to our own time by many relics of the stone-age of Europe and America, besides a collection illustrating the arts of the Egyptians and Etruscans. Here, too, is a cast of the celebrated fossil-man of Guadaloupe, the original of which is in the British Museum.

One of the most interesting truths illustrated by the geological collections at the School of Mines, is the fact of the humble beginning of both plant and animal life on our globe, and their constant increase both in variety and specialization, as we follow their progress through the geological ages. Every one who is interested in the great question of our time—evolution—should make himself familiar with a collection of fossils arranged geologically, in order that he may see with his own eyes the facts written in the great stone book of the geologist, on which the man of science bases his theories and conclusions.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

BREHM'S ANIMAL LIFE, BIRDS.[1]—Lovers of birds, even if they are not those of the United States, will be interested in this excellent work of Dr. Brehm, of which the first two volumes lie before us. The first volume begins with an account of the skeleton, and anatomy of the soft parts, while their physiology is briefly discussed, also the motions of birds, their songs and powers of speech, sense-faculties, psychology, distribution, development, their every-day life, their courtships, pairing, nesting and breeding habits, early life and migrations. Dr. Brehm's classification is as follows: The parrots head the series and form the first order; they are succeeded by the trogons, etc. (*Levirostres*), the humming birds (*Strisores*), the fourth order of *Pici*; then come the birds of prey. The second volume completes the account of the *Accipitres*; these are succeeded by the Passerine birds, the second volume ending with the *Gyratores*, or pigeons, and the dodo. It will be seen from this enumeration that the classification adopted by the author, a distinguished German ornithologist, is somewhat unlike that of Lilljeborg, a Swedish naturalist, adopted by most American authors, as the Passeres are, at the present day, placed

[1] *Brehm's Thierleben.* Allegemeine Kunde des Thierreichs. Grosse Ausgabe. Zweite Abtheilung. Die Vogel. Von Dr. A. E. BREHM. Band 1, 2. Leipzig, 1878. 8vo. New York, B. Westermann & Co. 40 cents a part.

at the head of the class. It is also unfortunate that the "orders" of birds are perpetuated, even in a popular work, since it is doubtful whether they should rank higher than sub-orders.

The singing birds (*Passeres*) are treated with great fullness of detail, and as these form the larger proportion of our native birds, amateurs and naturalists will find this a most popular and useful part of the work. The index of each volume is voluminous, while the illustrations are abundant and beautiful, the two volumes containing 346 woodcuts, many of them of life size, and thirty-seven full-page engravings, mostly drawn by Mützel, Kretschmer and others. They are fully up to the standard of those in the earlier volumes of the series, to which we have called attention.

The birds will be completed in a third volume. Two additional volumes will be devoted to fishes, finishing the series of ten volumes announced by the publisher, and which will, without doubt, be issued during the coming year.

SMITH'S STALK-EYED CRUSTACEA OF THE ATLANTIC COAST.[1] —This paper is based on the collections of the U. S. Fish Commission, and is of great value. In it are enumerated seventy-nine species of decapod Crustacea, which are or have been found in the limits named. Many so-called species are here for the first time united, a feature which agrees perfectly with the reviewer's convictions. These seventy-nine species have been described under 126 specific names. In relation to the geographical distribution of *Carcinus moenas* we would say that we have found it in the collection of Union College, from Northhampton county, Eastern shore, Atlantic side, Virginia. This is the farthest south that the species has been observed on this coast. A new species of *Geryon* (*G. quinquedens*) is described and figured, as is the only other known species (*G. tridens*). It differs from Kroyer's species in having the antero-lateral margin five toothed. *Cancer borealis* is figured for the first time. *Chionœcetes behringianus* Stm., is shown to be synonymous with *C. opilio* (O. Fabr. sp.). The name *Libinia canaliculata* Say, has to give precedence to *L. emarginata* Leach. *Parapagurus pilosimanus* (nov. gen. et sp.) is described. This genus is allied to *Eupagurus* and *Paguristis*, but has the gills composed of cylindrical papillæ instead of lamellæ as in most Paguroids. We have observed a similar structure in the genus *Carcinus*. A second species of the genus *Sabinea* (*S. sarsii*) is described and figured. *Hippolyte securifrons* Norman, is new to our coast. *Pandalus annulicornis* has to give way to the name *P. montagui*. In regard to *Palæmonetes vulgaris* we would say that besides the specimens from Salem Mill-pond (C. Cooke) we have seen specimens in the museum of the Peabody Academy at

[1] *The Stalk-eyed Crustaceans of the Atlantic Coast of North America, north of Cape Cod.* By S. I. SMITH. (Trans. of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, Vol. v, pp. 27–136, pls. VIII–XII, May, 1879.)